

188 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

under subjects in order to illustrate social history.¹ The development of Scottish trade and manufactures during the seventeenth century is now being investigated with great thoroughness,² All these various contributions to the national history have made it possible 'to relate the history of the people as well as the government | as Macaulay wished to do.

This history of the government of Scotland has also been made clearer. Macaulay's account of it is vague and rhetorical. In chapter iv he tells us that the legislature of Scotland 'was as obsequious as those provincial Estates which Lewis the Fourteenth still suffered to play at some of their ancient functions in Brittany and Burgundy', that ⁴none but an Episcopalian could sit in the Scottish Parliament, or could even vote for a member', and that it could "pass no law which had not been previously approved by a committee of courtiers '.⁸ Of the composition and powers of this legislature, either before or after the Revolution of 1688, no precise account is given. Macaulay mentions the abolition of the Lords of the Articles, but does not explain the magnitude of the change which the Revolution made in the position of the Scottish Parliament.⁴ William's difficulty in governing Scotland was caused by the fact that he had to deal with an assembly

which was no longer subservient to the Crown, but almost as independent as an English Parliament.⁵ And the

¹ Robert Chambers, *Domestic Annals of Scotland* (3 vols. ; 1859-61) ; E. D. Dunbar, *Social Life in Former Days* (2 vols. ; 1865-66).

² The Records of a Scottish Cloth Manufactory at the New Mills, 1681-1703, ed. W. R. Scott (1905). Dr. Scott's *Joint Stock Companies* contains much new information (ii [1910], 207-27, 377-8 ; iii [1911], 123-95).

³ 1, 488-90.

* IV, 1933 (xvi).

* See Professor C. S. Terry's *The Scottish Parliament: Its Constitution and Procedure, 1603-1707* (1905); and, as an introduction to that work, Professor R. S. Rait's *The Scottish Parliament before the Union of the Crowns* (1901).